

true of others, the number of citizens of the county, or their names, who were, during the war, arrested and sent under guard to the military prisons of the North, many of them by Harris-- generally without cause and without any specific charge being made know to them, and many of whom did not live to return to their homes.

INVENTORY OF MATERIALS

General
History W. Va.

Topic:

Title:

Battle of Droop Mt

Author:

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Date Submitted: _____

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Editor: _____

Detailed history of the Battle of Droop Mt. Gives events and dates preceding battle; full description of battle with map of battlefield.

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History

BATTLE OF DROOP MT.

NOVEMBER 6, 1863

BY CAPT. E. R. HOWERY

EVENTS AND DATES PRECEEDING BATTLE

- Nov. 1, 1863--Gen. W. W. Averell left Beverly, West Va
- Nov. 3, 1863--Gen. A. N. Duffie left Charleston, W. Va
- Nov. 5, 1863--Gen. John Echols occupied Droop Mountain
- Number of troops engaged (Union)----4700
- Number of troops (Confederate)-----3950
- Number killed (Union)----- 130
- Number killed (Confederate)----- 400
- Troops from West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio and Pennsylvania took part in the battle.

Confederate troops. The forces of Gen. Averell were able to push back all resistance and on November 5th, reached the town of Hillsboro, W. Va., about 3 miles from Droop Mountain and 33 miles from Lewisburg. The Union forces were advised that General Duffie would not reach Lewisburg until November 7th so didn't attack until the morning of November 6th, 1863.

The plan of attack by the Union troops was as follows: 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry were placed near the Locust Creek bridge in sight of the Confederate lines, and kept moving around giving the appearance of starting towards the Southern lines.

Keopers battery was placed on the hill above Beards Mill, and immediately opened fire on the Confederate batteries on top of Droop Mountain about 8:00 A. M. Eiven's battery was placed to the left of the turn pike between Hillsboro and Droop. Gibson's batallion and the famous 10th W. Va Infantry was held in readiness on the pike at Hillsboro.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th West Virginia Mounted Infantry Regiments were on the right of the turn pike out of sight about two miles from the base of Droop Mountain.

The 28th Ohio Infantry with one company of the 14th Pennsylvania Cavalry (about 1200 men in all) were sent on a long detour to the right via Labelia to come over the Jacob road and take the

The Battle of Droop Mountain was fought November 6th, 1863 between Union Forces, commanded by Brig. Gen. William W. Averell, U.S. Army, and Confederate troops under the command of Brig. Gen. John Echols, C.S. Army.

One of the reasons for the meeting of these two forces in West Virginia at this time was; The western part of Virginia was inhabited by people who were in favor of the Union, so June 20th, 1863 the old state of Virginia became divided into Virginia and West Virginia.

Confederate troops then were sent into the newly formed state so as to harass the Union troops in that vicinity, also to break down the morale of the people who had left the old state of Virginia.

The Southern Troops were very successful. They occupied the Greenbrier Valley with Headquarters at Lewisburg. The road from Lewisburg via Union to the Virginia border was the only available road to Virginia and Tennessee and had the Union troops who were located

in the vicinity of Elkins and near Charleston separated. Also winter was coming and the Confederate forces had to be drawn out so that the line could be maintained. The Southern troops were living off of the country and the people were insisting that aid be sent to them.

On October 28th, Gen. Benjamin Kelly, U.S. Army ordered General Averell who at that time was stationed at Beverly, West Virginia, to move to Lewisburg and capture or drive away any Confederate forces stationed in that vicinity. Also to join forces with General Duffie who left Charleston November 3rd, 1863 at 6:00 A.M. for Lewisburg. After a junction of the two forces, they were to move to Union W. Va. and thence to Virginia and Tennessee R.R., at Dublin Station and destroy the railroad bridge over New River.

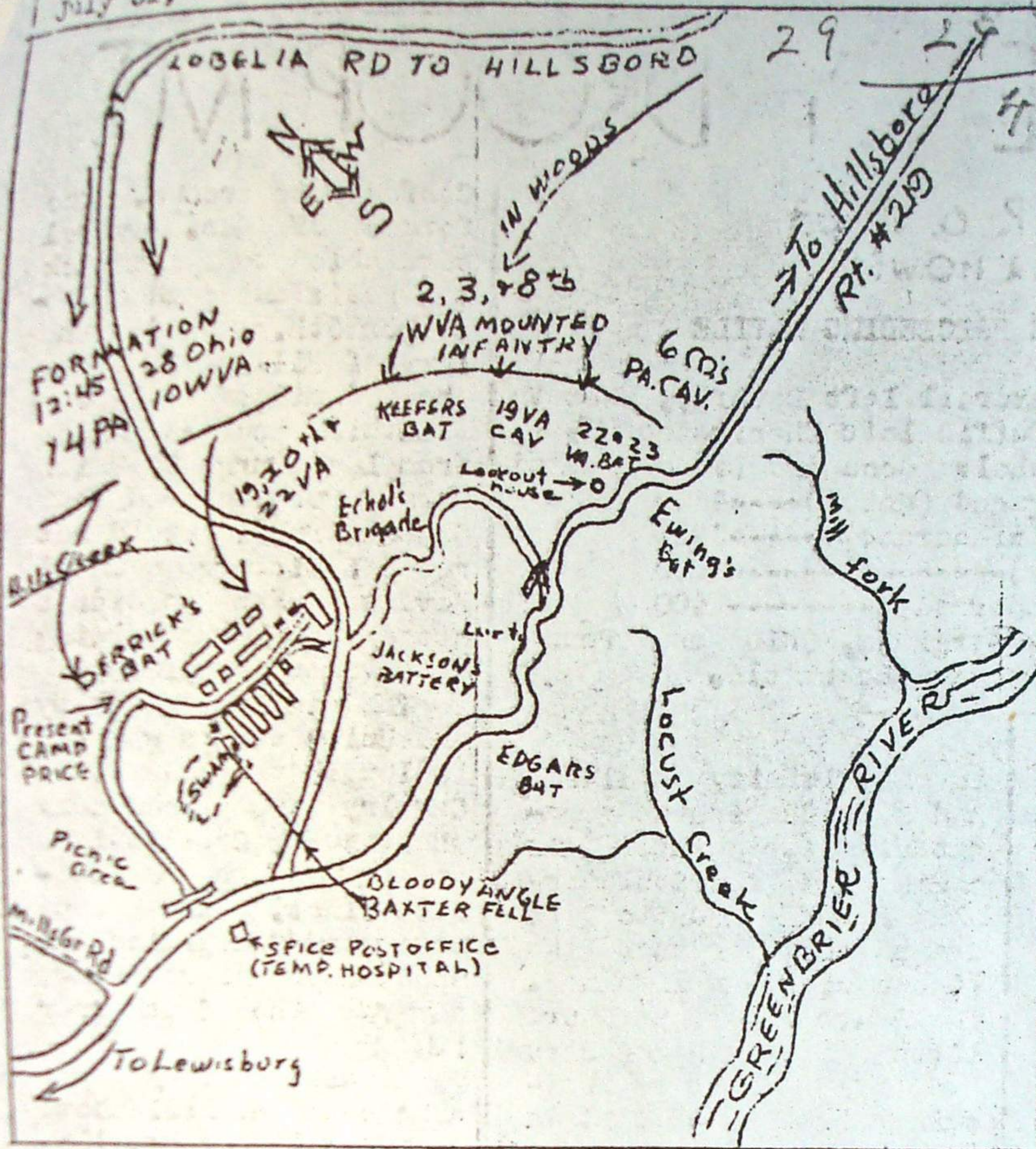
General Averell moved on the 1st day of November and immediately contacted guerrilla bands and small detachments of

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MAP OF BATTLEFIELD

Confederates on the left flank. This movement started about 5:00 A.M. and due to conditions of the roads, did not complete the march until 1:45 P.M.

The position of the Southerners was as follows: On the river road, Edgar's Battalion; on the brow of the mountain facing the Union troops from right and left, 22nd Virginia Cavalry under Colonel Patton; 19th Virginia Cavalry under Col. Cochran; Derrieks' Battalion of Infantry, Jackson's batteries; Major Blessing with a company of the 23rd Battalion was placed on the Lobelia-Jacob road covering the left flank. The right flank was protected by a steep mountain.

About 1:45 P.M. November

6th, 1863, the flanking party that had been sent via Lobelia reached the Confederate lines and immediately attacked.

The 2nd, 3rd, and 8th Regiments immediately started a direct attack up the face of Droop Mountain. They joined force with the flanking party, and drove the Confederate back toward Lewisburg.

Due to the road being narrow the Confederates were in confusion-cavalry and Infantry all mixed up together.

Colonel Thompson was in command of the rear guard of the Confederate and it was through his strong defense that the Southern troops were able to withdraw without much loss of life or equipment.

Another thing that might have influenced the retreat was that Gen. Averoll did not wish to push the Confederates too fast, as he wanted Gen. Duffie to reach Lewisburg first and cut them off.

The Confederates retreated on thru the night and passed thru Lewisburg just as General Duffie, entered the town from the west. General Duffie captured a few stragglers and some equipment.

The battle was the deciding point in West Virginia. After this the entire state was in the hands of the Northern armies.

One very interesting part of General Echols' report is quoted: "My artillery and trains were brought safely through with the exception of one brass Howitzer belonging to Chapman's battery, which broke completely down during the retreat so that it had to be left this offering the enemy the only trophy of which they can boast."

This cannon is supposed to have been buried in the swamp on Droop Mountain, but has never been found. For those who visit the Droop Mountain Battle Field, a large map has been drawn showing the position of the troop the day of the battle, also the present location of Camp Price, a larger and more distinct map, than could be shown here. This larger map shows location of monuments, markers and other items of interest.

Co. 2598, CCC, invites all to visit the Battle Field and will enjoy showing to visitors the old battle trenches, breastworks, gun implements, and other interesting things.

Topic: Battle
History W. Va.

Title: Drop Mountain Battlefield
Author: Pella F. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 750 words

Status: Complete Editor: _____

Contents: Complete statement on Drop Mountain Battlefield. Gives location and brief history of battle, and stories concerning it.

Source: Source given

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Rella F. Yeager

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*Green Droop Mountain
Battlefield Park Commission*DROOP MOUNTAIN BATTLEFIELD

One of the hard fought battles of the Civil War occurred at Droop Mountain, Pocahontas County, on November 6th, 1863, in which West Virginia Soldiers, both Confederate and Union participated.

Droop Mountain is a very high elevation--3000 ft-- overlooking the valley of the Greenbrier River, in the Little Levels District of Pocahontas County and the far off peaks of the Allegheny Mountains making it one of the most beautiful scenic spots in West Virginia.

Each Army fought for what it believed to be right and nearly all of the men who were actors in that bloody drama were West Virginians. The bitter struggle ended and the animosity engendered by that conflict has passed away and universal peace reigns.

The scene spread out before us was one of indescribable beauty and enchantment. Towering mountains, the smiling and fertile plains, the famous historic Greenbrier River flowing at the base of the rugged mountain --nowhere in all our travels have we witnessed such scenic beauty or such a location for a State Park.

Prior to this battle there were no considerable Confederate forces anywhere in West Virginia except in Greenbrier Valley which was held by the Confederates from its head to its foot. For the purpose of dislodging these Confederate

forces, General Averill was directed to march from Beverly, West Virginia to Lewisburg, in Greenbrier County, and ~~xxxx~~ it was while on this march he met the enemy at Droop Mountain. The battle was there fought between the forces commanded by General Averill and the Confederate forces by General John Echols and Colonel William L. Jackson. Droop Mountain is fourteen miles south of Marlinton, the County seat, seven miles from Mill Point and four from Hillsboro. It is ten miles from Renick Station, sixteen from Frankford and twenty-four miles from Lewisburg.

The forces engaged in the battle of Droop Mountain were composed of twelve Confederate Units, regiments, battalion and independent companies while the Union forces were composed of nine Unites, regiments and battalions. There was but a slight difference in the numbers composing the two armies. The 10th West Virginia Infantry and the 23rd Ohio that composed the flanking party and did the principal fighting was officially reported as 1175 while the 22nd Virginia Infantry Confederate was reported officially at 550 soldiers strong and the 23rd Virginia Battalion 350 strong. Capt. Marshall with 125 dismounted cavalry, Capt Derringes Battalion 500 and Major Kesler battalion and other units composed a fine fighting force.

Another phase of the history of Droop Mountain is of special interest. We reason from analogy and from pre-historic evidence that Droop Mountain has been a battle-field of some prehistoric race or by the early Indian tribes

of America. Many wonderful stories are handed down through journals and family records of the Shawnees who were the most remarkable of all the people inhabiting the country west of the Allegheny. In 1682 they fell under the rule of the six nations and existed in various branches. We find excavations at the foot of Droop Mountain where thousands of tons of rough flints have been removed.

At one time this has been a great military camping ground for the warriors of the forest. Many legends are told by people who lived on Droop Mountain and handed down for younger generations.

A young Union Officer who rode a beautiful sorrel horse was killed while riding fast around a large tree. The frightened riderless horse ran around the tree several times before it was stopped. It was said by people of that battle they could hear the rapid running of that frightened horse around that tree. *on the Anniversary of that battle* A most pathetic scene occurred at that battle. After the battle a squad of soldiers was detailed to gather up the dead and wounded. Among the number thus detailed was Andrew J. Short of Company F. West Virginia Infantry. They were working in the night and Short discovered a dead soldier and took hold of his body to remove him to the place they were bringing the dead and wounded together. He felt a crooked finger on the dead soldiers hand and the size and feel of the man convinced Short that it was his brother John. He called for some one to bring a light, saying that he had found his brother,

and when they got the light he found for a certainty that the man really was his own brother. In relating the incident to Dr. W. P. Newton many years after the battle, he said that he took his brother by the hand and recognized some peculiarity by which he knew this to be the lifeless body of his brother. This is an incident so rare that nothing similar has ever to our knowledge been recorded in the annals of warfare.

Rebecca H. Speakes

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Inventory of Materials

Topic: History W. Va.

Title: Pocahontas County in the Civil War.

Author: Rebecca F. Yeager

Date submitted: _____ Length: 1100 words

Editor: _____

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Contents: Complete account of Pocahontas County in the Civil War. Gives names of officers & companies formed, engagements fought; battle of Rich Mountain having General R. E. Lee in N. Va.

Source: Source given

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File: _____

Folder: _____

Mrs. Rella F. Yeager

Rella F. Yeager

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POCAHONTAS COUNTY IN THE CIVIL WAR

In the year 1861 the clouds of War hung over our Country; their deep den^oity hung over Virginia which at that time included West Virginia. Civil commotion shook the grand old Commonwealth.

Everywhere they enlisted in their native state; from the tide washed shores, from the midland counties and from the rock ribbed Alleghenies, long lines of brave soldiers marched forth to battle and die upon a hundred crimson fields. Among them were many of the descendents of the first pioneers of Pocahontas County who a century before had struggled with the fierce and relentless barbarians and had at last driven him from the country in which they had founded their homes, where the soldiers of a later day were born and reared.

When the tocsin of War sounded throughout their native mountains volunteering began. Andrew G. McNeel repaired to the Little Levels and organized the first company. This was early in the spring of 1861. A requisition was made for arms and they were shipped from Richmond, but were never received and the company disbanded in the fall of that same year.

Captain D. A. Stofer mustered a company at Huntersville, went south and with it was attached to the 31st Virginia Infantry.